

AAGT June 14, 2009 Board Conference Call

Present: Dan, Sarah, Cathy, Ansel, Charlie, Peter C, Maryanne,

Apologies: Brian, Robert, Bud.

Absent: Adam

Agenda

Reimbursement of Board Expenses for travel:

This was not approved as a general rule at the AGM in Madrid. However, could we look at on a case by case basis?

Charlie proposed this go on the agenda for Philadelphia. We could address a single case, should one arise before then, as a board. Dan added that this would never constitute a blank check to the board or to the president for any experience. He plans to attend 2 regional events in the US this fall and will want some form of reimbursement for them. There was a sense that this would be possible and then brought to the AGM as an example for the future. Sarah felt that the issue of expenses was different in the case of the president, where so much travel is expected in terms of representing the organisation, and suggested this might be viewed separately. Charlie agreed with this. Peter Cole supported this too - although also cautioned that we are on a very tight budget. He could not foresee us being able to reimburse board members. We also agreed to bring the item of financial support for presidential travel to the membership, in Philadelphia, as a budget item. It was felt that such financial support would help AAGT's visibility.

Membership Material: (Ansel)

Membership materials could be translated into all other languages for people in countries where we have RCPs. This could be an important way for the Membership chairs to work with RCPs to promulgate AAGT in their regions.

Communications Committee (Charlie):

We have four proposals and two pre-conference proposals submitted for our conference so far.

Sarah sent Charlie a summary of the Madrid minutes last month for the next Newsletter. The webmaster has also posted a copy of the minutes on the website.

Charlie would like to publish an article on the Kitzler memorials in Spain and the USA.

Charlie needs copy for the Newsletter from the regions.

What should be done with the Membership Section of the website? This is currently closed down for reasons of privacy. Should we set up a members only section of the website that can be accessed via a password? Charlie will look into this with Steve Logan. Sarah commented that the British gestalt organisation (GPTI) used such a system, and it seemed to bring benefit to the community. Dan suggested we post this suggestion on the members list and see what the response is from the membership. Charlie agreed to make a post. We discussed announcing new members, as a regular item, in the newsletter.

2010 Conference (Cathy and Burt):

Publicity for the conference has had difficulties but now is well staffed. Phil, Adam, and Marcy are now active members of the committee, in addition to Robert. Reminders re proposal submissions have been sent out on various discussion lists. Charlie also offered to put something in the Newsletter and, to do this, he will need a submission from Cathy early in the last week in June.

Registration fees have been worked out and are set at \$400 as "early, early" bird registration for members - \$500 for non-members, and this includes an AAGT membership. The committee hopes that by including a one year AAGT membership as part of the non-member registration fee, that AAGT will be able to retain the new members. Prices rise, in three increments, (\$450, 500, \$600) as we get nearer to the conference.

The conference committee will be opening registration as soon as the pre-conference workshops are in place, and will be asking the board to register early.

RCP Report (Brian, Dan for Brian):

RCPs will meet at the end of the month. Brian reports, via email, that there is a lot of excitement among the RCPs.

NE Region (Dan)

Ken Meyer of NYC is the new RCP for the NE. The board welcomed this announcement, and would like to pass on their thanks and appreciation to Ken.

There will be a NE Regional Conference in January 2010. The theme is the relationship between gestalt therapy and intersubjective psychoanalysis. We will be inviting people from the local intersubjective analytic community to participate.

Treasurer's report (Peter C):

We have about \$25 - \$27,000 although Peter C isn't clear on how much exactly we have in the UK account.

Peter C has sent a detailed account in a separate email.

Cathy asked if she might have a breakdown of figures from the Manchester conference - specifically, the final profit. Peter C will get back to us with this.

Karla continues to help with various tasks.

Development Fund (Bud):

Item adjourned until next meeting due to Bud being unable to connect to the call.

Research Task Force:

The board expressed their support, and appreciation, for this project.

Membership Renewal Report:

See item below.

Renewal Drive:

A two step approach was suggested - 1) RCPs will send a letter to people in their region directly. 2) The Board will call people after that, if necessary.

Ansel suggested we have our membership forms translated into the language of the country. Could Brian put this item on the agenda for the RCP call? Charlie reiterated his earlier point about us being honest in relation to our being an English speaking organisation so that we don't mislead people. Sarah suggested we clearly state, on any translated forms, that we are essentially an English speaking organisation.

Continuing Education (Ansel):

Provider Status with APA and NBCC:

APA has granted AAGT "Five Year Full Approval with Inquiry." "Inquiry" means that one or more APA reviewers cited concerns that will need to be addressed soon. We will receive a detailed Review Report in the next 8 – 10 weeks containing a detailed explanation of the citations and requesting additional information in response to their inquiry.

Ansel is completing NBCC's Five Year Re-Application for approved providerships for licensed counselors. This has ended up being longer than the APA Re-Application due to inclusion of the Manchester Conference Evaluation/Feedback Summary and other requirements (currently over 300 pages long and not quite completed) The board expressed its appreciation to Ansel for all his work on this.

Manchester Conference Evaluation & Feedback Report (Ansel and Charlie):

Another aspect of CE activity has to do with the Conference Evaluation Feedback Report. Ansel has combined Brian's graphs with the written feedback so it is all in one place. He has sent this 100 page Final Report to the Board and Philadelphia CPC Committee.

We agreed that presenters should be offered individual feedback from the evaluations. Ansel suggested that we have Adam cut, paste and send by Email each individual presenter their feedback (whether it was an individual or group presentation/workshop). Charlie suggested inviting presenters who would be interested in receiving feedback to contact us. He suggested making a post to this effect on the members list. Charlie will make this announcement, and will place an announcement in the Newsletter too. We proposed that this will be the procedure for Manchester but suggested that, for Philadelphia, the committee will look to establishing a way of providing feedback to presenters as a matter of course.

Archivist Report (Ansel):

Ansel gave a report on the current status of the Gestalt Therapy Archives at Kent State University.

Date of next meeting: to be arranged. Dan is polling the board via the board list.

Sarah

The Therapy Website
www.thetherapywebsite.co.uk